

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed August 11, 2011, claims 11-31 were previously withdrawn from consideration. Claims 11-31 are cancelled without prejudice as being directed to non-elected subject matter. Claims 1-4, 10, 32-34 stand rejected by the Examiner. As indicated by the Listing of Claims, claims 1, 2, 3, 4 and 34 have been amended. Claims 6-9 were previously cancelled without prejudice. Support for the aforementioned amendments can be found in the specification as originally filed. Applicant has thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action. All the pending claims at issue are believed to be patentable over the cited references.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 112

Claims 1-4, 10, and 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 3 and 5 and thus dependent claims 10, 32 and 33 by way of their dependency as well as independent claim 34. The amendments made to these claims are believed to obviate the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully request the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be removed.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 3, 4, 10, and 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Hinson (US Patent 5,322,350 A) in view of Helmer (US Patent 5,170,968 A). Claims 4 and

34 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hinson and Helmner as applied to claims 3, 4 and 34 and further in view of Vassiliev et al. (US Patent 6,070,831). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

According to the new Examination Guidelines for Determining Obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of the Supreme Court decision of *KSR International, Co. v. Teleflex, Inc.* it is stated that the proper analysis for a determination of obviousness is whether the claimed invention would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art after consideration of all the facts. The key to supporting any rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is the clear articulation of the reasons why the claimed invention would have been obvious. An Office Action must explain why the differences between the prior art and the claimed invention would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. See 72 Fed. Reg. 57526, 57528-529 (Oct. 10, 2007).

The Applicants respectfully assert that none of the cited references whether taken separately or in combination teach, suggest or otherwise render obvious a combination including all the features set forth in the claims. For example, independent claim 1 recites an aircraft fuselage including among other things “a plurality of longitudinal profiles attached to ribs running about an inner circumference of the skin.” The Applicants respectfully assert that none of the cited references recite the above quoted feature of claim 1.

Indeed, Helmer and Hinson are both silent as to the feature of the claimed ribs. Neither describe or disclose structure that could be construed as the ribs set forth in the claim. Neither reference teach, suggest or otherwise render obvious a rib or another member running about an interior circumference of the skin.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of independent claim 1 and its corresponding dependent claims be removed. The Applicant further

notes that independent claims 2, 3, 4 and 34 contain language similar to that discussed and quoted above with respect to independent claim 1. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully request the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 of independent claims 2, 3, 4 and 34 and their corresponding dependent claims be removed.

CONCLUSION

Entry of the Amendment is requested. The Amendment is believed to overcome the pending rejections. No new matter is added and no new issues are believed to be raised.

Any additional fee believed necessary for the consideration of this response and to prevent abandonment of this application is hereby authorized to be charged to deposit account no. 50-2036 with regards to Docket No. 59482.21880.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request that all the objections and rejections to the claims be removed and that the claims pass to allowance. If, for any reason, the Examiner disagrees, please call the undersigned attorney at 202-861-1714 in an effort to resolve any matter still outstanding before issuing another action. The undersigned Attorney is confident that any issue which might remain can readily be worked out by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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